Senate Restricts CBW Weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a rare moment of unanimity on a military matter, the Senate voted Monday to impose unprecedented restrictions on the testing and transportation of chemical and biological weapons.

But after that 91-0 roll-call vote, the chamber's deep division over defense spending flared anew when Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., protested what he called a mood of "mistrust, distrust, down with the military, down with the senators who are in line with the military."

Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, warned against efforts to chip away at the $20-billion military authorization program his panel proposed.

"We don't believe we're all of a sudden going to have the millennium," Stennis said. "We've got to have sufficient military strength to protect our own people."

The chemical and biological warfare amendment, cleared in advance by the Pentagon, swept through the Senate with only ar hour's debate.

It was a compromise package of amendments originally proposed separately by nine senators. House concurrence will be required to make it effective.

Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre, D-N.H., sponsored the amendent and called it "a coordinated effort to deal with a highly complex and unpopular part of our defense structure."

The key terms:

— Newer restrictions on open-air testing of chemical agents or germ warfare material. Such tests could be conducted only if the secretary of defense ruled them necessary for national security and the surgeon general determined they would not menace public health.

Those findings, the time and place of the test and the agents involved would have to be reported to six congressional committees at least 30 days prior to any testing.